



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/521,246 | 07/01/2005 | Mitsutoshi Shinkai | 450100-04651 | 8574 |
| 7590 12/04/2008 | | | | |
| William S Frommer Frommer Lawrence & Haug 745 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10151 | | | EXAMINER EKPO, NNIENNA NGOZI | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2425 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 12/04/2008 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/521,246

Applicant(s)

SHINKAI, MITSUTOSHI

Examiner

Nnenna N. Ekpo

Art Unit

2425

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 57-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-56 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 57-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgement

1. This Office Action is responsive to the arguments filed on September 15, 2008.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The reference listed in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 25, 2008 has been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449 form).

Drawings

3. Previous objection to the drawing is withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendment filed on September 15, 2008.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 57-63 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 57 and 61** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enami (Image Processing in Program Production –DTTP: Desk Top Program Production), in view of Seki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,154,534) and Lahey et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0228711).

Regarding **claim 57**, Enami discloses a video program production system for use in producing video program (see page 1, lines 11-17), a plurality of terminal (see fig 1 (24)), different operating groups (see page 2, lines 1-2, page 7, lines 20-21) respective terminals being operated by respective operating groups (see page 5, lines 21-page 6, line 1, fig 1 (24)).

However, Enami is silent on a composition table providing apparatus, and a terminal communicable with the composition table providing apparatus

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing composition table data containing information, describing successive tasks to be performed for the production of said video program,

control means for providing the composition table data to the terminal for viewing at the terminal, and for processing information input from the terminals to be added to the composition table data,

wherein the terminal comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means,

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said composition table, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the composition table providing apparatus.

Seki et al. discloses a composition table (item list) providing apparatus, and a terminal (personal computer) communicable with the composition table providing apparatus (see col. 10, lines 36-45 and fig 1),

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing composition table data containing information (see col. 2, lines 26-27), describing successive tasks to be performed for the production of said video program (see fig 89, col. 29, lines 40-51),

control means for providing the composition table data to the terminal for viewing at the terminal, and for processing information input from the terminals to be added to the composition table data (see col. 10, lines 50-62, figs 3A and 3B),

wherein the terminal (see fig 1, 200) comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus (see col. 10, lines 36 and 50-52),

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means (see col. 2, lines 27-33, col. 16, lines 34-37),

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said composition table (see col. 1, lines 10-14, col. 6, lines 28-34 and col. 16, lines 20-33),
and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the composition table providing apparatus (see col. 6, lines 35-43).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Enami's invention with the above mentioned

limitation as taught by Seki et al. for the advantage of easily and properly performing different task within video program production.

However, Enami and Seki et al. fails to specifically disclose input information including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by a respective group and instructing a group to perform the next successive task following the task that has been completed.

Lahey et al. discloses input information including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by a respective group (see paragraph 0057, lines 11-14, paragraph 0067, lines 1-4), and

instructing a group to perform the next successive task following the task that has been completed (see paragraphs 0060-0063, paragraph 0067, lines 8-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Enami and Seki et al.'s invention with the above mentioned limitation as taught by Lahey et al. for the advantage of knowing the status of each task.

Regarding claim 61, see analysis of claim 57.

7. **Claim 58** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enami (Image Processing in Program Production –DTTP: Desk Top Program Production), in view of Seki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,154,534), Lahey et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0228711) and Delpuch (U.S. Patent No. 7,069,579).

Regarding **claim 58**, Enami discloses a video program production system for use in producing video program (see page 1, lines 11-17), a plurality of terminal (see fig 1 (24)), different operating groups (see page 2, lines 1-2, page 7, lines 20-21) respective terminals being operated by respective operating groups (see page 5, lines 21-page 6, line 1, fig 1 (24)),

A/V gathering and editing tasks to be performed by different ones of said operating groups (see page 8, lines 3-7),

links to said audio and video information in said A/V database (see page 6, lines 7-10).

However, Enami is silent on a composition table providing apparatus, and a terminal communicable with the composition table providing apparatus

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing composition table data containing information,

an A/V database for storing audio and video information for said video program,

control means for providing the composition table data to the terminal for viewing at the terminal, and for processing information input from the terminals to be added to the composition table data,

wherein the terminal comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means, and for displaying said audio and video information when a link thereto in said composition table is selected,

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said composition table, said input information including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by a respective group, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the composition table providing apparatus.

Seki et al. discloses a composition table (item list) providing apparatus, and a terminal (personal computer) communicable with the composition table providing apparatus (see col. 10, lines 36-45 and fig 1),

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing composition table data containing information (see col. 2, lines 26-27),

control means for providing the composition table data to the terminal for viewing at the terminal, and for processing information input from the terminals to be added to the composition table data (see col. 10, lines 50-62, figs 3A and 3B),

wherein the terminal (see fig 1, 200) comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus (see col. 10, lines 36 and 50-52),

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said composition table (see col. 1, lines 10-14, col. 6, lines 28-34 and col. 16, lines 20-33), and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the composition table providing apparatus (see col. 6, lines 35-43).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Enami's invention with the above mentioned limitation as taught by Seki et al. for the advantage of easily and properly performing different task within video program production.

However, Enami and Seki et al. fails to specifically disclose input information including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by a respective group.

Lahey et al. discloses input information including end of task data representing the completion of the task performed by a respective group (see paragraph 0057, lines 11-14, paragraph 0067, lines 1-4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Enami and Seki et al.'s invention with the above mentioned limitation as taught by Lahey et al. for the advantage of knowing the status of each task.

However, Enami, Seki et al. and Lahey et al. fails to specifically disclose an A/V database for storing audio and video information for said video program and display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means, and

for displaying said audio and video information when a link thereto in said composition table is selected.

Delpuch discloses an A/V database for storing audio and video information (see col. 7, lines 22-31) and

display means for displaying said audio and video information when a link thereto is selected (see col. 10, lines 26-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Enami, Seki et al. and Lahey et al.'s invention with the above mentioned limitation as taught by Delpuch for the advantage of providing additional information.

8. **Claims 60 and 63** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enami (Image Processing in Program Production –DTP: Desk Top Program Production), in view of Seki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,154,534), Delpuch (U.S. Patent No. 7,069,579) and Kinney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,808,662).

Regarding **claim 60**, Enami discloses a video program production system for use in producing video program (see page 1, lines 11-17), a plurality of terminal (see fig 1 (24)), different operating groups (see page 2, lines 1-2, page 7, lines 20-21) respective terminals being operated by respective operating groups (see page 5, lines 21-page 6, line 1, fig 1 (24)),

audio and video (A/V) gathering and editing tasks to be performed by different ones of said operating groups required for the production of said video program (see page 8, lines 3-7),

links to said audio and video information in said A/V database (see page 6, lines 7-10)

editing tasks (see page 12, lines 5-16).

However, Enami is silent on a composition table providing apparatus, wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing updatable composition table data containing information,

an A/V database for storing audio and video information for said video program,

control means for providing the composition table data to the terminal for viewing at the terminal, and for updating said composition table data with information input from the terminal,

wherein the terminal comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means, and

retrieving means for retrieving from said A/V database said audio and video information when a displayed link thereto in said composition table data is selected,

means for performing an edit operation on at least said retrieved video information in accordance with describing said editing tasks,

input information generating means for generating edit information describing said edit operation to be input to said composition table, and

transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the composition table providing apparatus for updating said composition table data.

Seki et al. discloses a composition table (item list) providing apparatus, and a terminal (personal computer) communicable with the composition table providing apparatus (see col. 10, lines 36-45 and fig 1),

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing updatable composition table data containing information (see col. 2, lines 26-27),

control means for providing the composition table data to the terminal for viewing at the terminal, and for updating the data with information input from the terminal (see col. 10, lines 50-62, figs 3A and 3B),

wherein the terminal (see fig 1, 200) comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus (see col. 10, lines 36 and 50-52),

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means (see col. 2, lines 27-33, col. 16, lines 34-37),

transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the composition table providing apparatus for updating said composition table data (see col. 6, lines 35-43).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Enami's invention with the above mentioned limitation as taught by Seki et al. for the advantage of easily and properly performing different task within video program production.

However, Enami and Seki et al. fails to specifically disclose an A/V database for storing audio and video information for said video program, retrieving means for retrieving from said A/V database said audio and video information when a displayed link thereto in said composition table data is selected, means for performing an edit operation on at least said retrieved video information in accordance with describing said editing tasks and input information generating means for generating edit information describing said edit operation to be input to said composition table.

Delpuch discloses an A/V database for storing audio and video information (see col. 7, lines 22-31) and

Retrieving means for retrieving from said A/V database said audio and video information when a displayed link thereto is selected (see col. 10, lines 26-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Enami and Seki et al.'s invention with the above mentioned limitation as taught by Delpuch for the advantage of providing additional information.

However, Enami, Seki et al. and Delpuch fails to specifically disclose means for performing an edit operation on at least said retrieved video information in accordance with describing said editing tasks, and

input information generating means for generating edit information describing said edit operation to be input data.

Kinney et al. discloses means for performing an edit operation on at least said retrieved video information in accordance with describing said editing tasks (see fig 4, col. 5, lines 30-52), and

input information generating means for generating edit information describing said edit operation to be input data (see fig 4, col. 5, lines 11-14, lines 30-52).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Enami, Seki et al. and Delpuch's invention with the above mentioned limitation as taught by Kinney et al. for the advantage of generating detailed contributions to the other groups.

Regarding claim 63, see analysis of claim 60.

9. **Claims 59 and 62** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enami (Image Processing in Program Production –DTTP: Desk Top Program Production), in view of Seki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,154,534) and Farmer (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0055239).

Regarding **claim 59**, Enami discloses a video program production system for use in producing video program (see page 1, lines 11-17), a plurality of terminal (see fig 1 (24)), different operating groups (see page 2, lines 1-2, page 7, lines 20-21) respective

terminals being operated by respective operating groups (see page 5, lines 21-page 6, line 1, fig 1 (24)).

However, Enami is silent on a composition table providing apparatus, and a terminal communicable with the composition table providing apparatus

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing composition table data containing information describing successive tasks to be performed for the production of said video program, said composition table data further containing updateable items, with each operating group having authorization to access and update only certain predetermined ones of said updatable items;

control means for providing the composition table data to the terminal for viewing at the terminal, and for processing said certain predetermined updatable items, input from the terminals of those authorized operating groups, to be added to the composition table data,

wherein the terminal comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus,

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means,

access means for enabling said terminal to access and add to said composition table data only certain predetermined updatable items from the authorized operating group,

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said composition table, and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the composition table providing apparatus.

Seki et al. discloses a composition table (item list) providing apparatus, and a terminal (personal computer) communicable with the composition table providing apparatus (see col. 10, lines 36-45 and fig 1),

wherein the composition table providing apparatus comprises:

storage means for storing composition table data containing information (see col. 2, lines 26-27), describing successive tasks to be performed for the production of said video program (see fig 89, col. 29, lines 40-51),

control means for providing the composition table data to the terminal for viewing at the terminal, and for processing information input from the terminals to be added to the composition table data (see col. 10, lines 50-62, figs 3A and 3B),

wherein the terminal (see fig 1, 200) comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring the composition table data by communicating with the composition table providing apparatus (see col. 10, lines 36 and 50-52),

display means for displaying the composition table data acquired by the acquisition means (see col. 2, lines 27-33, col. 16, lines 34-37),

input information generating means for generating information to be input to said composition table (see col. 1, lines 10-14, col. 6, lines 28-34 and col. 16, lines 20-33),
and

input information transmitting means for transmitting the input information to the composition table providing apparatus (see col. 6, lines 35-43).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Enami's invention with the above mentioned limitation as taught by Seki et al. for the advantage of easily and properly performing different task within video program production.

However, Enami and Seki et al. fails to specifically disclose updatable operating group having authorization to access and update only certain predetermined ones of said updatable items, for processing said certain predetermined updatable items, input from the terminals of those authorized operating groups, to be added to the composition table data and access means for enabling said terminal to access and add to said composition table data only certain predetermined updatable items from the authorized operating group.

Farmer discloses updatable operating group having authorization to access and update only certain predetermined ones of said updatable items (see cited portion, but not limited to 0032-0033, 0037, 0042, 0052-0053 and fig 4), for processing said certain predetermined updatable items, input from the terminals of those authorized operating groups, to be added to the composition table data (see cited portion, but not limited to 0032-0033, 0037, 0042, 0052-0053 and fig 4) and access means for enabling said terminal to access and add to said composition table data only certain predetermined updatable items from the authorized operating group (see cited portion, but not limited to 0032-0033, 0037, 0042, 0052-0053 and fig 4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Enami and Seki et al.'s invention with the above mentioned limitation as taught by Farmer for the advantage of only allowing authorized personnel to access predetermined work area to complete their work task.

Regarding claim 62, see analysis of claim 59.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nnenna N. Ekpo whose telephone number is 571-270-1663. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 AM-5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Pendleton can be reached on 571-272-7527. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nnenna N. Ekpo/
Patent Examiner
November 10, 2008.

/Brian T. Pendleton/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2425

